GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5945
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
SEMINAR ON COCONUT
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a one-day seminar of coconut farmers was held in March 2001;

(b) if so, whether the delegates from Lakshadweep Islands, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have taken part in the seminar;

(c) the main points discussed in the seminar; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to help the coconut farmers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b): The Coconut Development Board under Ministry of Agriculture organised twoseminars on 5th March in Karnataka and on 17th March in Goa on coconut, which were largelyattended by representatives of Karnataka and Goa respectively. The Board also sponsored a seminar organised by Kera Karshaka Sangham at Cochin on31st March, 2001. This waslargely attended by farmers` representatives from Kerala besides Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Lakshdweep.

(c): In the seminar mainly strategies for increasing production and productivity of coconuts were discussed so as to make coconut cultivation remunerative to farmers.

(d): The Coconut Development Board is implementing following programmes for increasingproduction and productivity of coconuts, product diversification and by-product utilisation during 9th Plan with an outlay of Rs.105.00 crore. The programmes being implemented are:

(i) Production & distribution of planting material;

(ii) Expansion of area under coconut;

(iii) Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement;

(iv) Technology Demonstration;

(v) Marketing promotion and statistics;

(vi) Information technology;

(vii) Grant-in-aid to fabrication and development of machineries for coconut processing/ cultivation/ plant protection;

(viii) Human Resources Development and Contingency Fund

During 2000-2001, an additional amount of Rs.50.00 crore was provided forcontrol of eriophyid mite of coconut in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and for rehabilitation of coconut plantations affected by cyclone in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Government has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Ball copra (Fair Average Quality) at Rs.3550/Qtl. and Milling copra (Fair Average Quality) at Rs.3300/Qtl. for 2001 season. The procurement of copra is undertaken by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED).